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Listing of Claims:

287. (Previously Presented) A heterodimeric dye composition, said composition comprising a first dye that comprises a phenanthridinium moiety; and a second dye that is different from said first dye, said second dye being attached through the phenyl ring of said phenanthridium moiety.

288. (Currently Amended) The A heterodimeric dye composition of claim 287, having the structure

wherein said second dye Second Dye is not a phenanthridinium moiety.

289. (Previously Presented) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 288, wherein said Second Dye is substituted in any of the *ortho*, *meta* or *para* positions of the phenyl ring.

290. (Previously Presented) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 289, wherein said Second Dye is substituted in the *meta* position of the phenyl ring.

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- 291. (Currently Amended) The <u>heterodimeric dye</u> composition of claims 289 or 290 288, wherein said second dye comprises a thiazole, a fluorescein, a thiazole derivative, or a fluorescein derivative.
- 292. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 288, wherein said Second Dye is attached to said structure through a rigid linker arm.
- 293. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 292, wherein said rigid linker arm comprises one or more peptide bonds.
- 294. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 288, further comprising a bromine or chlorine counter-ion.
- 295. (New) The composition of claim 287, wherein said second dye is attached to said phenyl ring through a rigid linker arm.
- 296. (New) The composition of claim 295, wherein said rigid linker arm comprises one or more peptide bonds.
- 297. (New) The composition of claim 287, wherein said second dye is substituted in any of the *ortho*, *meta* or *para* positions of the phenyl ring.
- 298. (New) The composition of claim 297, wherein said second dye is substituted in the *meta* position of the phenyl ring.
- 299. (New) The composition of claims 287, wherein said second dye comprises a thiazole, a fluorescein, a thiazole derivative, or a fluorescein derivative.

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300. (New) The composition of claim 287, further comprising a bromine or chlorine counter-ion.

301. (New) A heterodimeric dye composition having the structure

wherein said Second Dye is not a phenanthridinium molety.

302. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 301, wherein said Second Dye is substituted in any of the *ortho*, *meta* or *para* positions of the phenyl ring.

303. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 302, wherein said Second Dye is substituted in the *meta* position of the phenyl ring.

304. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claims 301, wherein said second dye comprises a thiazole, a fluorescein, a thiazole derivative, or a fluorescein derivative.

305. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 301, wherein said Second Dye is attached to said structure through a rigid linker arm.

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306. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 305, wherein said rigid linker arm comprises one or more peptide bonds.

307. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 306, further comprising a bromine or chlorine counter-ion.

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